



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/tZUode6pqz0rHNXZROntx6WOIKpcgqgqAMd9R>

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

In Attendance: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Susan Stamps, Keith Schnebly, Ed Trembly, Mara Vatz, Steve Moore. Others: Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre, JoAnn Preston, Suan Ann Kehler.

1. *Approve December Meeting Minutes – approved*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Tree Bylaw activity
 - i. 35 Crosby Street: teardown/rebuild no trees coming down on Tree Plan, 4 protected Sycamore maple + 3 spruce trees. (John Demartinez is the developer).
 - ii. 41 Oldham Road – from ZBA meeting – home owner is lead on the project, Tim sent 'packet': construction guidelines, tree plan sample, bylaw language. Recommended they reach out to arborist for help with Plan.
 - Tree hearing(s) - None
 - Tree health / mgmt news
 - i. Planning to treat EAB again this year, working with Town Manager's office for this plan.
 - ii. Boxwood pest: new to U.S. UMass Extension Service has details: website: [Search Results | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst Boxwood Pest](#)
 - iii. Beech tree: leaf fungus/blight. UMass Extension Service has details: website: [Search Results | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst Beech Blight](#)
 - Other town projects where trees are present
 - i. Honeylocust trees previously discussed are now being removed at Broadway Plaza to make way for underground work, DPW is staging the removals.
 - ii. No additional news on the Stratton 'safe walk to schools'. Two of the trees proposed to remove for the project are unhealthy, and town will take them down. Other removals will need a tree hearing
 - iii. ATC brought up the upcoming public input session for a bike connector between the bikepath and Mystic River Reservation.
3. Report on Bylaw review for 2022 (Susan, Eliza, Mary Ellen)
 - Proposed changes – two draft warrant articles brought forth for ATC to review and vote upon: one general, one warrant more detailed. The committee approved the more detailed article, addressing 1. definition of demolition; 2. need for certified arborist/certified landscape architect to make a tree plan; 3. reducing the dbh of Protected Trees and 4. requiring a signed affidavit if no tree plan is needed

4. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*

- Mara and Keith presented a brief slideshow advocating for more comprehensive tree planning at the 10 Arlington schools. Next steps: look for existing landscape plans; attend school committee meetings to float idea; present idea to DPW. Schools: kids in Arlington spend the majority of their days on school properties. There is no department whose job it is to plant and maintain trees. (DPW does removals). Propose a tree (and greenery) master plan for schools. There is no intentional planning for tree canopy. DPW: not their job but instead the School dept. Can ATC help to increase canopy on school grounds using Trees Please and MacEachern funds (landscape planner hired; soil improvements, etc) to come up with a Tree Mgmt plan for school campus? One approach: choose 1 school as a pilot, and possibly model the program after the Canopy program done at AHA plantings. Model: designer to create a planting plan, local planter, local nursery. Consider purchasing 12 trees @ larger dbh than was purchased for AHA) + soil remediation + hire a landscape architect to plan.
- Community Canopy Program for 2022/additional AHA planting.
- Work with Town Counsel to expand planting on private property by finalizing - back of sidewalk (setback) planting program. Need Mike R and Tim L agreement.

5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Annual Report. Eliza invited others to read this year's annual report. She will share it with Tim and DPW
- Adopt A Tree Program 2021. **Action: MEA and Eliza will work on this**
- Outreach to town orgs (ARB (Susan/Eliza), ZBA (Steve), Park & Rec, Op Space, School Comm (Mara), ConComm (Keith). Super important to review committee agenda's ahead of time, attend meetings if possible, and highlight where trees need to be considered (reminding of Bylaw and Ch 87).
 - i. Conservation Commission will be looking at a 40B project at 1021-1025 Mass Ave that backs up to the Mill Brook. About 80 trees on the property. ATC would like to invite ConCom to one of our meetings.

6. *Reappointment of members*

Keith Schnebly – Select Board reappointment 1/24

7. *New Business*

Next meeting: February 9th